

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) 50 trains on Indian Railways have been nominated for posting of train superintendents out of which 5 trains, viz, 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail, 5645/5646 Dadar-Guwahati Express, 6519/6520 Bangalore-Guwahati Express, 6321/6322 Trivandrum-Guwahati Express and 6313/6314 Cochin-Guwahati Express run on N.F. Railway.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Advertisement for Calling Tenders

370. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hyderabad Telecom Department has issued an advertisement in various editions of an English daily calling tenders for works worth lakhs of rupees;

(b) if so, whether the last date for submission of the tenders have already expired when the advertisement published;

(c) if so, whether it has been alleged that it was a pre-determined bid by the Telecom Department to allot civil works at various places in the State running into several lakhs of rupees to their own men;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted as to how tenders have given when the expiry date has already expired;

(e) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(f) the action taken against those held responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Advertisements are issued to Newspapers of different languages such as English, and other languages with specific stipulations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. In specific circumstance, such as when a reasonable notice is not available between the date of publication in Newspaper and stipulated date of receipt of Tender requisite action is taken to consider postponing the date of receipt of tenders. Requisite Public Notifications are issued accordingly.

(d) to (f) In view of the reply to Para (a) to (c), this does not arise.

Subsidised STD Calls

371. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have subsidised the STD calls recently;

(b) if so, whether this facility is available to Armed forces and Para Military personnel posted in boarder districts of North Eastern Region;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Jawans are not able to avail of this facility due to lack of basic infrastructure in border districts; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make STD facilities available in border districts of North Eastern region keeping in view the hardships of Jawans ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. STD Tariff was restructured with effect from 15.2.97 to ease the traffic congestion.

(b) and (c) The restructured STD tariff is applicable to the entire country including border districts of North Eastern Region.

(d) and (e) In the seven North Eastern States, Government have already taken action to provide STD to all the District Headquarters.

STD facility will be made available to all the Sub-Divisional Headquarters and Tehsil Headquarters with telephone exchanges in the border areas of the North Eastern States during 1997-99 subject to availability of equipment.

[Translation]

Halt of trains at Tundla Junction

372. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide a halt of Nilanchal Express at Tundla and Jaleshwar, Purva Express at Firozabad, Marudhar Express, Jodhpur Howrah Express and Vaishali Express at Tundla Junction, Jaleshwar Road Station and Firozabad Station (Uttar Pradesh) Keeping in view the demand of the public of those places;